

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An optical disc comprising:

a spatial feature;

wherein when a mark is written next to the spatial feature and the mark is  
spatially centered relative to the spatial feature, and the mark is read in a  
5 compatible disc drive, a resulting binary read data signal is not affected; and  
wherein when the mark is positioned so that an end of the mark is adjacent  
to the spatial feature, and the mark is read in a compatible disc drive, a  
resulting binary read data signal is affected.

2. The optical disc of claim 1, further comprising:

a groove, the mark written in the groove.

3. The optical disc of claim 2, further comprising:

the spatial feature comprising an increase in a radial width of the groove,  
with a distance, tangential to a groove center line, along which the width of  
the groove is increased, being less than a spatial length of the mark.

4. The optical disc of claim 2, further comprising:

the spatial feature comprising a decrease in a radial width of the groove,  
with a distance, tangential to a groove center line, along which the width of  
the groove is decreased, being less than a spatial length of the mark.

5. An optical disc comprising:

a spatial feature;

wherein when a space is written next to the spatial feature, and the space is  
spatially centered relative to the spatial feature, and the space is read in a  
compatible disc drive, a resulting binary read data signal is not affected; and  
wherein when the space is positioned so that an end of the space is adjacent  
to the spatial feature, and the space is read in a compatible disc drive, a  
resulting binary read data signal is affected.

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6. The optical disc of claim 5, further comprising:

a groove, the space written in the groove.

7. The optical disc of claim 6, further comprising:

the spatial feature comprising an increase in a radial width of the groove,  
with a distance, tangential to a groove center line, along which the width of  
the groove is increased, being less than a spatial length of the space.

8. The optical disc of claim 6, further comprising:

the spatial feature comprising a decrease in a radial width of the groove,  
with a distance, tangential to a groove center line, along which the width of  
the groove is decreased, being less than a spatial length of the space.